THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India gets the printing of Stamp Papers done through India Security Press, Nasik on the basis of indents received from the States and Union Territories. The distribution and sale of stamp papers, monitoring and investigation into counterfeiting is done by the State Governments within their jurisdiction. No incident of counterfeiting has occurred in the India Security Press, Nasik.

(c) After the detection of the Stamp Paper Scam, the Security setup at India Security Press, Nasik has been revamped and the security entrusted to the Central Industrial Security Force. Gadgets such as CCTV are under installation. Further, the Security features in Stamp Papers have been enhanced to make counterfeiting extremely difficult.

Non-availabiiity of tickets on Gulf sector

*232. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:
PROF. P.J. KURIAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many instances of non-availability of tickets to Gulf region for Gulf passengers from Kerala due to heavy traffic especially during vacation/festival season;

(b) if so, what steps will be taken to initiate more services of Air India flights to this region;

(c) whether there is any proposal/decision by the State Government of Kerala to float airline company for opertaing flights to Gulf region;

(d) if so, whether competent authority will relax norms of five years experience in domestic flight for operating international flights, to such airline company;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is generally a very high demand for seats in the months of August/September on this sector. However, capacity induction on Gulf operations has been significantly

increasd this year by a number of airlines including Indian Airlines and foreign carriers to cater to this additional demand.

(c) No such proposal is available with the Government.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

Allotment of land for displaced persons from BALCO

†*233. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have allotted 1200 acres of lands on lease to the displaced persons from BALCO;

(b) whether the Sterlite Industries have set up a power plant and a sub-station for its private use on the said land; and

(c) if so, the details of action being taken to evict Sterlite Industries from the said land?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per information made available by the State Government of Chhattisgarh, no land has been allotted to the displaced persons from BALCO.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has informed that it has proceeded against BALCO for reported encroachment on 1036.52 acres of land wherein the expansion project of BALCO is in progress. Since BALCO has obtained a stay order from Hon'ble High Court of Chhattisgarh, the State Government has stayed its action regarding the eviction of BALCO from the encroached land.

Promotion of CNG

*234. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will encourage the use of environment friendly fuel Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in private/commercial vehicles also;

(b) if so, what action the Government have taken to facilitate supply and distribution of CNG in the cities of the country;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.